

I support Ambassador Flynn and the entire American Catholic Alliance in their efforts to right the wrongs in Cuba.

I would like to enter this document from Ambassador Flynn, entitled, "Human Rights in Cuba" for the RECORD.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA

Dear Editor: Pope John Paul II publicly released a letter that the Vatican sent to Fidel Castro a couple of weeks ago expressing dismay at Cuba's crackdown on political dissent.

The pope personally appealed to Castro to show leniency with dissidents recently given harsh prison sentences and denounced the execution of the men who seized a ferry to reach the United States.

The letter, which was signed by the Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Cardinal Sodano, stated in part, "The Holy Father felt deeply pained when he learned of the harsh sentences recently imposed on numerous Cuban citizens. And even, for some of them, the death penalty." Thus far, Castro has not acknowledged the letter.

Speaking at a political luncheon in Boston and also later on MSNBC national television on Saturday, I said, "Castro has a human rights record of shame. He has oppressed and persecuted many Cubans including those in the Catholic Church and priests whose only objective was to teach the world about God." The U.S. Government and the international community have closed their eyes to this injustice and terror in Cuba for forty years.

Cuba sits only ninety miles off the United States coast, but it continues to be one of the world's worst violators of human rights. When you see what has been happening in Cuba these many years, you have to be concerned about whether we have lost our moral compass. Our government policy of looking the other way when it comes to human rights abuses must be changed. When members of the U.S. Congress visit Castro in the future, they should demand that the Cuban leader recognize and respect the God given rights of all individuals. Our policy in Cuba has been a failure. Economic boycotts and expanding business opportunities have not worked.

Pope John Paul II has been a clear and consistent moral voice on human rights issues throughout the world, but the international community must be equally committed.

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER BRANNEN, FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter Brannen of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than three years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal development and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Peter has previously

earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud him and his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Peter's advisor, Ms. Lynn Lyons, who has shown tireless dedication to the Youth Congressional Award and has mentored countless youth over the years. The relationship between Ms. Lyons and her students has been an extraordinary one. Ms. Lyons is now retired after her years of teaching at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Peter Brannen of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community of Florida, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the nation's most outstanding young people.

IN MEMORY AND PRAISE OF MAYNARD HOLBROOK JACKSON

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I join with all of my colleagues, with the family and with all Americans in mourning the passage of a great political leader and a personal friend, Mayor Maynard Jackson. I rise to salute the outstanding achievements of the former Mayor of Atlanta who was also a national political leader and a major asset of the Democratic Party. But before I sound the loud trumpets which are appropriate for the highlighting of Mayor Jackson's public life, I would like to pause and note my fond personal memories of Maynard.

In the Morehouse College class of 1956 he was my classmate. But even more intimate than that space were the roles we shared as part of an experimental program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Maynard and I were two of 30 college freshmen who had been admitted without completing the last 2 years of high school. Most of the so called "Ford Boys" were 16 years old. Maynard was the youngest at age 14.

Maynard was a native of Atlanta, the location of Morehouse College. He was a member of one of the oldest African American leadership families. Maynard even at that early age had a strong sense of mission and personal responsibility. Despite his youth he became the host for our group of 30 special students. We were from very different worlds. My father was a factory worker who had never earned more than the minimum wage. But during that freshman year Maynard's father who was the minister of one of Atlanta's most prestigious churches, died suddenly. My mother also died in the Spring of that year. Few understand better than I did the sudden escalated maturation of the 14 year old Maynard. It was probably the first great crisis of his life but he rallied his personal resources and he overcame that great emotional obstacle. It was a challenge which set a pattern for the rest of his life and career.

My classmate, Mayor Maynard Jackson leaves a clear and shining legacy for all to see and for African American leaders to utilize as a guiding beacon. Mayor Maynard sought power and through a very creative strategy and set of tactics he won power. But the truly

distinguishing achievement of Mayor Maynard Jackson was his bold and uncompromising use of his power to further empower the African American community of Atlanta. In very concrete dollar and cents terms he confronted the business elite of Atlanta and forced the opening of new doors of significant business opportunities for minorities.

Under Mayor Jackson's early leadership as Mayor, Atlanta City contracts soared from less than 1 per cent in 1973 to 39 per cent within 5 years. Many of these contracts were related to the construction of the expanded world class Atlanta airport. It is believed that several dozen new black millionaires were created via Maynard's mandated joint venture models. It is important to note that the airport expansion was still completed ahead of time and under budget. For African Americans unprecedented new opportunities were opened up as a result of the Mayor's confrontation with the white business establishment. Maynard Jackson could never be called an "empty suit" concerned only with the ceremony and symbolism of being the first Black Mayor of Atlanta. The legacy he leaves is a lesson for all African American leaders: power is acquired for the purpose of empowering those who lacked power before. Martin Luther King's movement and the Voting Rights Act were constructed, not to install peacocks with their limited agendas for personal wealth and fame; instead the assumption of public office is a method of extending the struggle.

Let it be noted and fully understood that Maynard Jackson had to pay a price for his courage and his boldness on behalf of the continuing struggle. When he left office as Mayor, the white establishment attempted to lynch him economically by denying him an appropriate berth in the private sector. Fortunately, it was one more hurdle which Maynard overcame. More of the story of the battle of Atlanta must be told in order for the legacy to be understood clearly. Mayor Maynard Jackson was more than just a successful politician. He was a trailblazer, a hero who set high standards that all African American public officials must measure up to in performance.

ANNE E. SMITH—2003 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today to extend heartfelt congratulations to Anne Elizabeth Smith, 2003 Presidential Scholar, Indianapolis, IN.

Anne is a recent graduate of North Central High School, Indianapolis, IN. Her myriad achievements include the prestigious Indiana Honor Diploma and the North Central Honor Diploma. Anne will continue her education at Williams College, Williamstown, MA.

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President. This program was established to recognize and honor some of our Nation's distinguished graduating high school seniors. In almost 40 years since this program was implemented, 4,000 students have been recognized for their outstanding

achievement in leadership, scholarship, and community.

I would like to welcome Anne to Washington, DC, for National Recognition Week, where scholars are recognized for their academic achievements.

I would also like to thank Anne's parents, David and Alyson Smith, for providing Anne with the exceptional parental guidance that has contributed to her success.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in saluting this extraordinary young woman for her academic excellence.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAD VEZIN
FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE
CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD
MEDAL

—
HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chad Vezin of Jupiter, Florida for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than three years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal develop-

ment and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Chad has previously earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud him for his hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Chad's advisor, Ms. Lynn Lyons, who has shown tireless dedication to the Youth Congressional Award and has mentored countless youth over the years. The relationship between Ms. Lyons and her students has been an extraordinary one. Ms. Lyons is now retired after her years of teaching at St. Mark's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Chad Vezin a resident of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the nation's most outstanding young people.